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In re reissue application of Haase Serial No.: 09/733,392 Filed: December 7, 2000 For U.S. Patent No. 5,846,435 0170SS-45347	Group Art Unit: 1724 Examiner: C. Barry
In re Haase Reexamination Proceeding Control No. 90/005,710 Filed: April 24, 2000 For: U.S. Patent No. 5,846,435 0170SS-44897	

COMMUNICATION IN RESPONSE TO THE DECISION TO MERGE OF MARCH 21, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please enter the following amendments, contained on the attached sheets, in the respective cases as a housekeeping amendment to place the same claims in both of the above-referenced cases, as per the above Decision. A clean copy of the amended claims is provided for the Examiner's reference.

Status and Support For Claim Changes

Seventeen (17) claims are pending. Support for the amended claims 1, 2, 3, 15 and 16 is found in the examples on columns 7-9 and on column 5, line 2 to column 6, line 43. Support for claim 19 is found in claims 4 and 8 and on column 5, line 56/column 6, lines 20-21, among other places. It has been assumed herein, in making the requested "housekeeping amendment", that the Preliminary Amendment in the reissue application and the February 5, 2001 Amendment in the reexam application have both been entered. The Decision referenced above so indicated.

It is not believed that any fees are due, but notwithstanding the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee deficiency to Deposit Account No.50-1753 (0170SS-44897).

Please note the new address and phone number, attached, for further communications on this matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

4/18/01
Date

Sue Shaper

Sue Z. Shaper
Reg. No. 31,663

Express Mail" mailing label number EF397565638US
Date of Deposit: 4/18/01
I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

JEANNIE D. HARRIS
(Typed or printed name of person mailing paper or fee)

Jeannie D. Harris
(Signature of person mailing paper or fee)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: David R. Crichton, Ciba Specialty Chemicals Corporation, 540 White Plains Road, P. O. Box 2005, Tarrytown, NY 10591-9005, on the date below:

JEANNIE D. HARRIS
Name of Applicant, Assignee, or Registered Representative

Jeannie D. Harris Sue Shaper

Signature

4/18/01 4/18/01
Date

AMENDMENT TO SERIAL NO. 09/733,392
AND CONTROL NO. 90/005,710

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for dewatering biological sludge that has been digested by a thermophilic digestion process comprising:

a. adding at least one polymeric quaternary ammonium compound[s], as a functionally primary component, to the biological sludge; [and]

b. adding at least one polyacrylamide to the biological sludge;

c. coagulating the biological sludge to form microflocs whereby said at least one polymeric quaternary ammonium compound functions as a primary component in forming microflocs; and

d. flocculating the microflocs with said at least one polyacrylamide such that [any] the combination[s] of the polymeric quaternary ammonium compound[s] and of the polyacrylamide[s] enhances dewatering of the sludge.

2. (Amended) The method for dewatering biological sludge according to claim 1, wherein the polymeric quaternary ammonium compound[s are] is from di-allyl di-methyl ammonium chloride (DADMAC) family.

3. (Amended) The method for dewatering biological sludge according to claim 1, wherein the polymeric quaternary ammonium compound[s are] is from epichlorohydrin di-methyl amine (epi-DMA) family.

15. (Amended) A composition for dewatering biological sludge that has been digested by a thermophilic digestion process according to claim 1 comprising at least one polymeric quaternary ammonium compound[s], as a functionally primary component, and polyacrylamide, said components being present in the composition in a ratio to enable the at least one ammonium compound to function as a primary component in forming microflocs for the biological sludge and the composition to function as an agent for dewatering biological sludge from a thermophilic digestion process.

16. (Amended) The method for dewatering biological sludge according to claim 1, wherein the polyacrylamide and the polymeric quaternary ammonium compound[s are] is used in solution or in dry form.

Please delete new claims 17 and 18, added by amendment to the reissue application, and add claim 19 as follows:

B4 20 ~~19~~. (New) The composition of claim 15 wherein the polyacrylamide is cationic or anionic.

CLEAN COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A method for dewatering biological sludge that has been digested by a thermophilic digestion process comprising:

a. adding at least one polymeric quaternary ammonium compound, as a functionally primary component, to the biological sludge;

b. adding at least one polyacrylamide to the biological sludge;

c. coagulating the biological sludge to form microflocs whereby said at least one polymeric quaternary ammonium compound functions as a primary component in forming microflocs; and

d. flocculating the microflocs with said at least one polyacrylamide such that the combination of the polymeric quaternary ammonium compound and of the polyacrylamide enhances dewatering of the sludge.

2. (Amended) The method for dewatering biological sludge according to claim 1, wherein the polymeric quaternary ammonium compound is from di-allyl di-methyl ammonium chloride (DADMAC) family.

3. (Amended) The method for dewatering biological sludge according to claim 1, wherein the polymeric quaternary ammonium compound is from epichlorohydrin di-methyl amine (epi-DMA) family.

15. (Amended) A composition for dewatering biological sludge that has been digested by a thermophilic digestion process according to claim 1 comprising at least one polymeric quaternary ammonium compound, as a functionally primary component, and polyacrylamide, said components being present in the composition in a ratio to enable the at least one ammonium compound to function as a primary component in forming microflocs for the biological sludge and the composition to function as an agent for dewatering biological sludge from a thermophilic digestion process.

16. (Amended) The method for dewatering biological sludge according to claim 1, wherein the polyacrylamide and the polymeric quaternary ammonium compound is used in solution or in dry form.

19. (New) The composition of claim 15 wherein the polyacrylamide is cationic or anionic.